

## **DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 2, 2008**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wichita, Kansas 67214**

#### **Members Present**

Council Member Lavonta Williams  
Treatha Brown-Foster  
Gerald Domitrovic  
James Thompson  
Lori Lawrence  
Janice Rich  
Steve Roberts  
Benjamin Stiff  
Gail Finney  
Tythan Miles  
Debra Miller Stevens

#### **Guests**

Buck Goodman, 704 S. Madison  
James Barfield, 2131 N. Edgemoor  
Margaret Hyden, 206 N Green  
Beverly Domitrovic, 1219 GW Drive  
Mike Barushok, 354 N Green  
James Roseboro, 4518 Greenbriar  
Om Chauhan, 31 Laurel  
JoAnn Hartig, 1756 S. Main  
John Stevens, 3125 E Boston  
Janet Wilson, 1152 N Estelle

#### **City of Wichita Staff Present**

LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant  
Officer Schwiedtal 22 Beat, Wichita Police Department  
Mark Manning, Finance Department  
Jan Chatman, Park & Recreation

### **Order of Business**

#### **Call to Order**

**Council Member Williams** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**Roberts (Thomsen)** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried **9:0**

#### **Approval of Agenda**

**Roberts (Miller-Stevens)** made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried **9:0**

**CM Williams** thanked everyone for coming and asked that if anyone chose to speak that they state their name and address for the record.

### **Public Agenda**

#### **1. Agenda Items**

No items submitted.

#### **2. Off Agenda Items**

No items submitted.

### **Staff Report**

#### **1. Police Report**

**Officer Schwiethale, Beat 22** advised that vagrancy issues have increased in the downtown area.

He noted that this is common as the overflow shelters have closed thus causing more homeless individuals on the street. **Officer Schwiethale** also advised that larcenies are up as well, especially in auto. He noted that special assignments have been and are being conducted, as well as more education through the distribution of flyers. However, **Officer Schwiethale** noted that although these statistics are up they have remained stable over the last month. Additionally, **Officer Shwiethale** noted that there has been an increase in graffiti and they are educating the community on what to do when graffiti is identified. This education is also occurring through flyers.

**Lawrence** wanted to know if Officer Schwiethale was responsible for the arena. **Officer Schwiethale** advised that he would be responsible for the areas around the arena, but the County Sheriff would be responsible for any activity that occurred on the arena grounds and/or in the facility.

**Officer Feurborn, Beat 42**, advised that both larcenies and graffiti are in up in the area as well as the Wichita community. He noted that a graffiti task force has been established in the North area. **Officer Feurborn** also advised that a prostitution sting was conducted last Thursday resulting in 13 arrests. He noted that the arrest did not occur on North Broadway, adding that the prostitutes have moved to the 43 and 44 Beats. **Officer Feurborn** distributed a list of the arrestees and advised that individuals should call 900 or Patrol North at 688-9500 if they see suspicious individuals roaming the neighborhood.

**Brown-Foster** wanted to know if the women that have been arrested were predominately white or African American. **Officer Feurborn** advised that one was a male and the females were predominately African American. **Brown-Foster** then asked what the community should look for when trying to identify these individuals. **Officer Feurborn** advised that they should look for individuals that look out of place, flagging down cars, and/or leaning into cars. Those should be some identifiers.

**Lawrence** wanted to know if the individuals that had been arrested lived in the area. **Officer Feuborn** responded that most of them lived within 3-4 blocks of where they were arrested.

**Officer Feuborn** also advised that another identifier was to visit the website at [www.wichitapolice.com](http://www.wichitapolice.com) and they post the pictures of those arrested for moral violations. He also noted that they are working with Project Butterfly – a group that tries to provide assistance to those individuals in the street.

**Brown-Foster** wanted to know what were the ages of the ladies arrested and if drugs and pimps were involved. **Officer Feuborn** advised that the ages ranged from 30-40 and yes both are involved; however, it is difficult to get information about the pimps from the women.

**Miles** wanted to know what time the sting occurred. **Officer Feurborn** advised that it took place between 5p.m. – 3a.m.

**Thompson** wanted to know who the CP Officer was for the 43 Beat. **Officer Feuborn** advised Officer Staci Woodson.

**Janet Wilson**, 1152 N. Estelle, wanted to know what measures are being taken to go after the Johns. **Officer Feuborn** advised that john stings were done in January, February, and April. Additionally, there faces are put on the websites as well.

**JoAnn Hartig**, 1756 S. Main wanted the Officer to give more information on the mapping restrictions program. **Officer Feuborn** advised that the mapping restrictions program maps those

arrested out of a specific area, meaning that if they are caught in the area that they have been excluded (mapped) from then they can be arrested.

**Brown-Foster** wanted to know when marketing for National Night Out would begin. **Officer Feuborn** advised now. **CM Williams** advised that they are working on it now and that she and LaShonda would be working to get information out to the District as well.

**Brown-Foster** wanted to know have gang members brought out more illegal weapons. **Officer Feuborn** advised that the summer months bring out a lot of activity.

**DAB Member** also noted that domestic violence seems to be up. **Officer Feuborn** advised that Police have been working with the YWCA on recontact with domestic violence victims.

**CM Williams** thanked the Officers for their reports and thanked them for all their hard work.

The **Board** thanked the Officers for their report.

**Action Taken: Received and filed.**

### **New Business**

#### **2. Property Tax Relief**

**Mark Manning, Finance Department**, provided information on the proposal option presented to the City Council to shift city taxes: lowering the property tax and increasing the sales tax. The City of Wichita currently is financed in part by \$100 million annually generated from the property tax. The City does not currently have a city-only sales tax. The City does receive around \$50 million annually as a share of a County-wide sales tax approved by voters in 1985.

Staff has developed a concept that could allow the property tax mill levy to be reduced from the present 32 mills to as low as 15 mill (a reduction of 17 mills). A proposed city-wide one cent sales tax would be used to offset the revenue lost.

**Manning** explained that reducing the property tax would also provide a decrease in motor vehicle tax. So while the decrease in property tax and increase in sales tax is not a one for one change it would balance itself in the end.

**Manning** also advised that this is a business friendly approach as the businesses of Wichita pay a much higher property tax. Moving to such a taxing system would allow homeowners and businesses to save approximately 53.2% in property taxes annually. See tax shift examples below:

<b>Taxpayer</b>	<b>Status Quo</b>	<b>With City LST</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent</b>
\$1000,000 Home				
City of Wichita	\$368	\$172	\$196	53.2%
Small Business	\$7,999	43,747	\$4,252	53.2%
Large Business	\$42,273	\$19,801	\$22,472	53.2%
Large Retail	\$56,701	\$26,559	\$30,142	53.2%
\$20,000 Vehicle	\$387	\$354	\$33	8.5%

**Manning** went on to explain that this is just an option being presented to the Council and that in order for a sales tax to be implemented it would have to be placed on the ballot and the voters would have to vote for this change. **Manning** advised that there are several options that could be taken: 1) a 100% swap- “one for one” LST for property tax relief; 2) 50% property tax relief and 50% something else (infrastructure); 3) implement a city local sales tax with no property tax relief; 4) implement a countywide local sales tax, and 5) do nothing.

**Finney** wanted to know if our mill was 2<sup>nd</sup> to Overland Park where did we stand.

**Manning** explained that we are 11<sup>th</sup> out of 25 cities.

**Miller-Stevens** wanted to know if Manning was referencing the cities mill levy only.

**Manning** advised that yes this is in reference to the city mill levy only, as they could only control the city’s mill levy.

**Miller-Stevens** then asked how we compared in total to other cities. **Manning** advised that he did not have that information but would get to LaShonda to forward to the Board.

**Roberts** wanted to know whom he should contact for the regressivity study. **Manning** advised he would send it to LaShonda to forward to the Board.

**Miller-Stevens** wanted to know with the increase in sales tax, would that be a benefit to businesses. Would they lose sales because of this? **Manning** advised that they did not see any elasticity when the Arena sales tax was implemented.

**Brown-Foster** wanted to know how the city could lower property taxes if property taxes are controlled by the county. **Manning** explained that we can control the city’s portion (25%).

**Miller-Stevens** wanted to know what has generated this conversation. **Manning** explained that his job is to present options to the policy makers of did mechanisms available to help finance city services.

**Brown-Foster** commented that this is not a good time to raise the sales tax.

**Stiff** noted this change could create a lot of volatility. He wanted to know how the city plans to address this. **Manning** explained that generally sales tax grows slow and steady.

**John Stevens**, 3125 E. Boston wanted to know what mechanism you would recommend the State Legislatures put in to stop the County or USD 259 from coming back and taking the savings by raising their mill levies. **Manning** said that they could implement property tax caps, but that again is a policy decision that would have to be made.

**Janet Wilson**, 1152 N. Estelle wanted to know what the percentage of homeowner vs. renters vs. total population was for Wichita and how that impacted tax equity.

**Mr. Barfield**, 2131 N. Edgemoor noted that the city does not have the authority to implement a sales tax. **Manning** responded that the city does have the authority to add the tax to the election ballot for the citizens to vote for or against the tax.

**James Roseboro**, 4518 Greenbriar commented that this is a bad idea and that the price of food should not be taxed.

**Mike Barushok**, 354 N. Green wanted to know when tax equity is determined is it based on the people who are using the service.

**Om Chauhaun**, 31 Laurel commented that improving operational efficiencies for the city should be the focus.

**Brown-Foster** wanted to know if the Police and Fire department receiving federal funding. **Manning** advised yes but those dollars are decreasing and that Fire does not receive many federal dollars.

**Brown Foster** also wanted to know if the city received any of the revenues from guest taxes on hotels, tobacco, liquor and gas. **Manning** advised that yes the City receives 98% of the guest tax on hotels and some of the other taxes.

**Rich** mentioned that in other cities the grocery stores do not charge a sales tax and that the City should consider the same policy. **Manning** advised that is a policy question for State of Kansas not a local decision.

The **Board** thanked Manning for his presentation.

**Action Taken: Received and filed.**

### **Board Agenda**

#### **3. Updates, Issues, and Reports**

**CM Williams** asked the Board if there were any updates to report.

**Rich** – Hyde NA picnic will be June 14<sup>th</sup> at Skyline Park (Laura & Kellogg).

**Lawrence** - Uptown NA picnic is June 7<sup>th</sup> at Chautauqua Park, she noted to come before 11:30 a.m. to see the White Tiger marching band. She also announced that Uptown would have their annual rummage sale on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Brown-Foster** - announced the Center for Health & Wellness BBQ Fest on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, children 3 and under are FREE.

**Miller-Stevens** – announced the Schweiter East picnic on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and their neighborhood clean up for June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Miles** announced that the Kansas African American Ball was a great success.

**CM Williams** noted that Miles did an extraordinary job with the ball and that he also received a special recognition at the event.

**John Stevens**, 3125 E Boston provided an update on the McDonald Park and 13<sup>th</sup> Street project. He advised that the Park Board met with staff and they have made progress; however, the Park Board would like for a fence to be added around the entire stretch of the golf course and not just in the front along 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Additionally, Dr. Dye is asking that they use some of the savings and look into the WAMPO program. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**CM Williams** noted that she did not want to lose out because of lack of compromise. She indicated that she would not be able to attend the meeting as she would be out of town.

**James Roseboro**, 4518 Greenbriar noted that new development is occurring at 37<sup>th</sup> & Oliver, 37<sup>th</sup> & Hillside, and 21<sup>st</sup> & Oliver. He also noted that their Neighborhood Association would have their summer picnic, Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 p.m. at Chisholm Creek.

**James Barfield**, 2131 N Edgemoor acknowledged the Board with a concern regarding the new City Manager search process. He wanted to know why we were rushing to hire a new City Manager and noted that we should look before we leap. He read a letter (see attachment) to the Board that he submitted to the Eagle for publishing and hopes that the City Council will look at other candidates before finalization of this candidate. Additionally, he talks about how the hiring on Salerno would be a true disservice to the community. **Mr. Barfield** also asked what happens from the time CM Williams was quoted in the newspaper May 17<sup>th</sup> indicating “we really have to take our time” to May 23<sup>rd</sup> when it is announced that we are in contract negotiations with Mr. Salerno.

**CM Williams** acknowledged Mr. Barfield and advised that she feels that we need to take our time and that is still my opinion.

**Buck Goodman**, 704 S. Madison noted that he is trying to save the boathouse and wanted to come before the Board tonight to introduce himself.

**Janet Wilson**, 1152 N Estelle announced that the A Price Woodard NA meeting would take place on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Health Department and their guest included Andy Bias – Mennonite Housing and Police discussing Neighborhood Watch. She also noted that they have some dumping issues and believe the activities are occurring between 10p.m and 6 a.m. She noted that if anyone notices the dumping to get a description of the car and tag # if possible.

**Om Chauhaun**, 31 Laurel commented that in order to reduce blight we need to find out why there is blight. **OM Chauhaun** noted that blight is due to the high crime rates and that we need to hold the individuals committing the offense accountable for their actions.

With no further business, **Roberts (Finney)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 10-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
LaShonda Porter  
Neighborhood Assistant